

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 OIC-04 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 ARA-11 EA-11 RSR-01 /225 W

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R 271821 Z JUN 73 ZEL

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5422

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION GENEVA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADD VALLETTA AS INFO ADDEE

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E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, AG, MO, TS, SP, IS

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SUBJ: JUNE 25-26 EC COUNCIL: MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3375

1. SUMMARY: AT ITS JUNE 26 MEETING, THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REACHED AGREEMENT ON A MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALGERIA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, SPAIN AND ISRAEL. THE MANDATE WILL INCLUDE THE AGRICULTURAL POSITION ADOPTED LAST WEEK BY THE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS, FREE ENTRY FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, SOCIAL SECURITY PROVISIONS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS, AND FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID. THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES IS SOMEWHAT CONFUSED SO FAR AS THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 26 THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FOREIGN MINISTERS) REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE MANDATE TO BE GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION FOR NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND ALGERIA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, SPAIN AND ISRAEL. THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS.

3. GENERAL: THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE TRADE CONCESSIONS IN THE PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED IN TIME. CONCESSIONS RELATED TO THE TREATMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS AND COOPERATION (AID) POLICY ARE TO BE LIMITED INITIALLY TO FIVE YEARS.

4. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS: THE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT, IN GENERAL, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES ARE TO BE GRANTED FREE ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY. SENSITIVE PRODUCT LISTS WERE AGREED TO WITH SOME ITEMS SUBJECT TO INDICATIVE CEILINGS AND OTHERS SUBJECT TO A STRICT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM. (WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT PRODUCTS IN THIS SENSITIVE CATEGORY COVER ABOUT 8 PERCENT OF EC IMPORTS FROM SPAIN AND 20 PERCENT OF ITS IMPORTS FROM ISRAEL.) THE NETHERLANDS ACCEPTED THIS PORTION OF THE DECISION ON AN AD REFERENDUM BASIS BECAUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CONCERN ABOUT CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED SENSITIVE PRODUCTS: WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS PROBABLY WOULD NOT RESULT IN ANY DELAY IN THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE MANDATE.

5. AGRICULTURE: THE MINISTERS ADOPTED THE MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PACKAGE WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED LAST WEEK BY THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS (SEE

EC BRUSSELS 3406). WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT AN EVOLUTIONARY
CLAUSE -- COVERING POSSIBLE FUTURE CONCESSIONS FOR
AGRICULTURE ON A STRICTLY RECIPROCAL BASIS -- WILL BE
INCLUDED IN THE SPANISH AND ISRAELI AGREEMENTS. SOME
ADDITIONAL " TIDYING UP" IS NECESSARY BEFORE THE
AGRICULTURAL CONCESSION PACKAGE WILL BE COMPLETED. THE
PERM REPS WILL TRY TO FINISH THIS IN THE NEXT TWO
WEEKS.

6. MANPOWER: THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE GRANTING OF
SOCIAL SECURITY PROVISIONS TO MIGRANT WORKERS FROM
THE FIVE MEDITERRANEAN STATES WHO ARE EMPLOYED
WITHIN THE MEMBER STATES. IN GENERAL, SOCIAL SECURITY
COVERAGE FOR THESE WORKERS IS TO BE EQUAL TO THAT OF
NATIONALS OF EC MEMBER STATES.

7. THE MINISTERS AGREED ON THE AID PROVISIONS OF THE
MANDATE, EXCEPT THAT THE BRITISH RESERVED THEIR POSITION
UNTIL THEY SEE THE FINAL CALCULATION OF THE AMOUNTS WHICH
ARE TO BE PREPARED ONLY IN THE AUTUMN. OUR UK SOURCES
INDICATED QUITE FRANKLY THAT THEY WANTED TO POSTPONE
A DECISION AS LONG AS POSSIBLE ON THIS POINT. THEY
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A ROUGH IDEA OF THE COSTS OF THE
FUTURE ASSOCIATION WITH THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATED AND
COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES BEFORE COMMITTING
THEMSELVES WITH REGARD TO AID IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
AREA. THIS PORTION OF THE CONCIL'S DEBATE WAS IN
GENERAL TERMS AND NO PRECISE FIGURES WERE DISCUSSED.

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED USINT ALGIERS.

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8. RECIPROCITY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES: THIS
PORTION OF THE COUNCIL'S MANDATE TO THE COMMISSION
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REMAINS UNCLEAR. THE SUBJECT OF RECIPROCITY AND
REVERSE PREFERENCES WAS DISCUSSED MORE THOROUGHLY IN
THE CONTEXT OF THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES RATHER THAN THE
CONTEXT OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY WHERE IT IS CONSIDERED
A LESS IMPORTANT ISSUE. IN ITS MEDITERRANEAN DISCUSSIONS,
THE COUNCIL FOCUSED ON THE MAGHREB BECAUSE IT HAS ALREADY
AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN AND ISRAEL
SHOULD LEAD TO SO- CALLED FREE TRADE AREAS.

9. BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DOUGLAS- HOME STATED
THAT THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES WOULD RESENT BEING REQUIRED
TO GRANT REVERSE PREFERENCES. COMMISSION MEMBER CHEYSSON
RESPONDED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES WOULD
OPT FOR A FREE TRADE AREA APPROACH. THE BELGIANS (IN
THE CHAIR) CLAIMED THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF THE MAGHREB
COUNTRIES HAD TOLD THEM THAT THEIR COUNTRIES COULD
HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH GRANTING REVERSE PREFERENCES TO
THE EC. THE FRENCH TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE COMMUNITY
SHOULD NOT TAKE AWAY FROM THE MAGHEB COUNTRIES WHAT

THEY ALREADY HAVE BEEN GRANTING (SIC) AND THAT THE FTA APPROACH WAS THE APPROPRIATE FORMULA. A QUESTION WAS ALSO RAISED WHETHER THE ISSUE OF RECIPROCITY COULD LEGITIMATELY BE RAISED WITH REGARD TO MOROCCO BECAUSE OF THE TREATY OF ALGECIRAS.

10. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE COUNCIL THEN MOVED ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS AND APPARENTLY DID NOT COME TO A SPECIFIC DECISION ON THE RECIPROCITY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES ISSUE SO FAR AS THE MAGHREB IS CONCERNED. SOAMES AND WELLENSTEIN CONSIDER THAT THE QUESTION IS SETTLED (AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT) IN FAVOR OF THE FREE TRADE AREA APPROACH FOR ALL FIVE COUNTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, MEMBER STATE SOURCES, SOME OF WHOM PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSIONS, ARE UNCLEAR ON WHERE THE ISSUE STANDS. SOME SOURCES CLAIM THAT BY LEAVING THE ISSUE UNCLEAR THE COMMISSION WILL BE ABLE TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES DURING THE NEGOTIATION. IF THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES WERE TO REFUSE TO OFFER RECIPROCITY THE ISSUE COULD THEN BE RETURNED TO THE COUNCIL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. (THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES THEMSELVES WILL BE WATCHING CAREFULLY HOW THIS ISSUE IS RESOLVED WITH REGARD TO THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES.)
GREENWALD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ECBRU03571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730627/aaaajmjn.tel
Line Count: 254
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 EC BRUSSELS 3375
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980224
Subject: JUNE 25-26 EC COUNCIL: MEDITERRANEAN POLICY
TAGS: ETRD, AG, IS, MO, SP, TS, EEC
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
EUR
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LUXEMBOURG
MADRID

PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005